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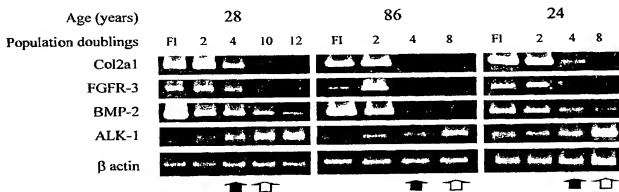
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(54) Title: IN VIVO ASSAY FOR TESTING THE PHENOTYPIC STABILITY



(57) Abstract: An *in vivo* assay to measure anchorage-independent growth and phenotypic stability of a certain cell population comprising subcutaneous or intramuscular injection in a mammal of a cell suspension of articular chondrocytes in an iso-osmotic liquid, the same suspension comprising articular chondrocytes in an amount equivalent to at least  $1 \times 10^6$  chondrocytes as applied to immune-deficient mice. The outcome is linked to molecular markers. The present invention further relates to DNA chips and diagnostic tools comprising the latter to predict the outcome of ACT. Antibodies raised against positive and negative markers of chondrocyte stability can also be used for quality control on the chondrocytes. Therapeutical composition comprising stable chondrocytes are very useful for tissue repair.

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